

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region
October 27, 1999

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PUBLIC HEARING SET ON SUV & TRUCK EMISSIONS

EPA will hold a national public hearing on Nov. 2 in Philadelphia on the agency's proposal to reduce emissions from heavy-duty trucks, large passenger vans, and sport utility vehicles. The new proposed standards are part of a two-phase strategy.

MD CEMENT CO. CITED FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

EPA issued a notice of violation to Lehigh Portland Cement Corp., in Union Bridge, Md. for failure to comply with sulfur dioxide regulations. The company performed physical changes to their kilns to enable it to burn waste tires. These changes caused an emission increase which required the company to install the best available control technology for several air pollutants. The company is currently under a stop work order from EPA until Nov. 5, and must supply detailed emissions projections and limitations for all pollutants of concern.

PHARMACEUTICALS IN ANIMAL FEED A GROWING CONCERN

Concentrated animal feeding operations and the production of large volumes of animal waste are major environmental concerns facing every EPA Region and have been highlighted as a national priority in the Clean Water Action Initiative. A growing concern

associated with this issue is the use of drugs in animal feeds and the potential for alterations in the microbial ecology of the environment associated with these operations, including the development of drug-resistant pathogens. EPA Region III was awarded \$100K in supplemental Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) funds to initiate a pilot study exploring this issue. The project will involve a collaborative effort between the Office of Research and Development, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Geological Survey, and the University of Maryland, and will focus on antibiotics used as feed additives in the poultry industry.

PA's NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM APPROVED

On October 14, EPA approved Pennsylvania's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program - September 1999 Update. The management plan, developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, serves as a working document that watershed organizations, conservation districts and resource agencies can use as a tool to control, prevent and remediate nonpoint source pollution. To develop the plan, PA invested in a broad public participation process and developed a liaison workgroup to assure multi-agency participation. In February 1998, EPA announced in its Clean Water Action Plan that states must have an EPA-approved updated management program in order to qualify for grant funding in 2000. The NPS Program 1999 Update can be found on PADEP's website.

MULLENS, WV TO GET GRANT INCREASE

The City of Mullens, W.Va. will get a \$160,000 grant increase from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The increase is in addition to a \$1,000,000 grant that was awarded to the city September 30, 1998. The funding will be used to replace the existing sewer lines which are subject to excessive inflow into the system. The combined grant will pay for 48 percent of the project, and the remaining 52 percent will be paid for with city funds and state grants.

EPA CHEMIST IS EXPERT WITNESS ON SLUDGE

An EPA chemist provided expert testimony regarding the analysis of wastewater sludge from Salisbury, Maryland's wastewater treatment plant. The city land applies its sludge, however, the metal content cannot exceed EPA standards. Lab analysis showed the sludge's metal content exceeded the standard on five separate occasions. The city contends that this was a result of lab error, however, the chemist testified to the contrary. The trial was held in Washington, DC in September and lasted 3 days. A decision on this case will not be made for several months.

EPA CHECKS STATE OZONE MONITORING

In fiscal year 1999, EPA conducted 51 audits of state and local ozone monitoring stations throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The audits are an important assessment of the quality of data being routinely produced and submitted. These audits are a legal requirement under EPA's ambient air monitoring regulations.

JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIAL TOURS FT. MEADE LAB

The EPA's Environmental Science Center, Ft. Meade, Maryland, hosted a tour on October 15, for Takehiko Yokoyama, a Japanese Officer and Office of Pesticide Program Managers. Mr. Yokoyama works for the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and hopes to learn about the structure of EPA as well as the registration process used for pesticides in the United States.

EPA MEETS TO MOBILIZE SENIOR PA VOLUNTEERS

EPA representatives met with directors and members of the Pennsylvania Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) representing over 20,000 senior citizens in the commonwealth. The RSVP members participated in a focus group to test market a new brochure on the disposal of household hazardous waste, provide current information, and to determine the environmental information needs of senior citizens. The RSVP directors meeting included these topics, and also looked for ways to combine our environmental efforts through partnerships, develop ways to train the RSVP members to do environmental outreach, and ideas on how to mobilize RSVP members for Earth Day 2000.

UTILITY FAIR TO ASSIST PHILLY CONSUMERS

The seventh annual Philadelphia utility fair will be held on Friday, October 29 at Community College of Philadelphia, Student Life Building from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Public Utility Commission's Electric Choice Robot, "EC" will be on hand to answer questions. Break out sessions on various topics will take place throughout the day including an energy efficiency discussion highlighting ENERGY STAR Products and the ENERGY STAR buildings program.

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